

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/527,464

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q86804

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

FIGs. 7 and 8 have been corrected to include the designation "PRIOR ART."

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are the claims that have been examined in the pending application. Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanazaki et al. (U.S. 5,739,741, hereafter “Hanazaki”). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanazaki in view of Kanamori (U.S. 5,662,496, hereafter “Kanamori”). By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claim 1, canceling claim 2, and adding new claims 5-8.

Preliminary Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants’ claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for acknowledging acceptance of the drawings filed March 11, 2005.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objects to FIGs. 7 and 8, stating that they should be designated by a legend such as “PRIOR ART.” By this Amendment, Applicants are submitting replacement FIGs. 7 and 8 which include the designation “PRIOR ART.” Withdrawal of the objection is hereby requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanazaki et al. (U.S. 5,739,741). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanazaki in view of Kanamori (U.S. 5,662,496). Applicant respectfully traverses.

As amended claim 1 contains the structural limitations from claim 2, the following argument will be limited to the arguments presented by the Examiner in regards to claim 2, specifically, the §103(a) rejection over Hanazaki in view of Kanamori.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part:

wherein said housing comprises a retaining portion corresponding to a retaining claw of a withdrawing jig for withdrawing said housing and said retaining portion comprises a first ridge portion which is formed at and protrudes from an upper portion of a side surface of said housing, and is disposed perpendicularly to a longitudinal axis of said housing, and two second ridge portions which protrude from the side surface of said housing, extend perpendicularly from opposite ends of said first ridge portion, respectively, and are disposed parallel to the longitudinal axis of said housing.

The combination of Hanazaki and Kanamori fails to disclose all of the elements of the amended claim 1. Hanazaki discloses a fuse body, a housing, and a cover. However, Hanazaki fails to disclose a first ridge and second ridge of the retaining portion, as is acknowledged by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action dated November 29, 3005.

The Examiner argues that Kanamori discloses a first ridge and second ridge of the retaining portion. However, Kanamori discloses that the ridges are formed by recessions in the housing of the fuse. Claim 1 requires that the ridges are formed by protrusions on the side surface of the housing. The structure of Kanamori's retaining portion does not include ridges which protrude from the side surface of the housing.

Additionally, claim 1 recites "a retaining portion corresponding to a retaining claw" the Examiner argues that portion R in Hanazaki would be the retaining portion defined in claim 1 of the invention. However, Applicants submit that the portion R in Hanazaki retains the cover and the housing. That is, portion R directly corresponds to the retaining projection 46 in FIG. 1, or

the retaining projection 7 in FIG. 7, in the disclosure of the present application. In other words, Hanazaki's disclosure including the portion R is almost identical to the conventional fuse shown in FIG. 7 of the present application.

Claim 1 should be patentable because the applied references fail to disclose all of the elements of claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. Claims 3 and 4 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Claims 5-8 are also patentable. Claim 5 recites, in part, "wherein said housing comprises a pair of retaining portions, corresponding to a retaining claw of a withdrawing jig for withdrawing said housing, formed on a first pair of opposite side surfaces of said housing, and a pair of retaining projections for retaining said cover formed on a second pair of opposite side surfaces of said housing." Hanazaki teaches a pair of retaining projections for retaining said cover, but Hanazaki fails to teach or suggest a pair of retaining portions, corresponding to a retaining claw of a withdrawing jig for withdrawing said housing, on the opposite side surfaces from the retaining projection for retaining said cover. See Hanazaki FIG. 1.

Kanamori teaches a latching means in the fuse body to allow for extraction by a fuse puller, but fails to teach a pair of retaining portions formed on a first pair of opposite side surfaces of said housing. Because the applied references, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose all of the elements of claim 5, claim 5 is patentable over the applied art. Claims 6-8 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 5.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

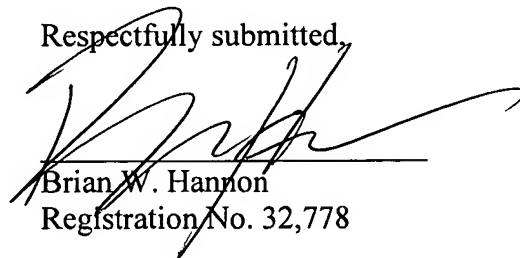
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian W. Hannon", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: February 28, 2006